Iranian Drums

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Iranian Music

• As old as Elam culture (~2000-3000 B.C.)
• Some of the Iranian musicians:
  – Pre-Islam: Nakisa, Sarkash, Barbad
  – Post-Islam: Zaryab, Farabi, Avicenna
• Regional Musics:
  – Kurdish, Khorasani, Mazani, Azeri, Balouchi, etc.
Iranian Music (Cont.)

• **Radeef:**
  – A collection of old melodies (based on folk music) preserved in an oral fashion.
    • 12 (13-1) tonal spaces (Dastgah)
    • Each tonal space with ~10-30 melodies (Gousheh)
  – Transcribed by Colonel Ali-Naqi Vaziri (~1960s)

• Improvisation is an essential part of the performances!
Drums

• Tombak:
  – Goblet-shaped, single-headed drum
  – Mulberry wood + Sheep/Cow/Camel skin
  – The principal drum of Iranian music

• Daf:
  – Mainly a ceremonial instrument in Kurdistan (Iran/Iraq/Turkey)
  – Sheep/Goat skin + Mulberry wooden frame
Drums (Cont.)

• Other Drums
  – Dayereh (Small Daf, with different techniques)
  – Dohol
  – Damam
  – Koozeh (Clay pot)
  – Naqara
  – Tas
  – Dosarkotan
Iranian Music Rhythms

- Mostly based on the intrinsic rhythmic structure of the Iranian poems
- Iranian rhythmic cycles
  - E.g. Abd al-Qadir Maraghi
- Related and influential systems:
  - Indian
  - North African
  - Turkish
- Most common time signatures:
  - 6/8, 2/4, 4/4, 5/8, 7/8, 16/8
  - 13/8, more complex